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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 299741
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DRAFTED BY EB/TD:JJO'NEILL, JR.:PB
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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS:ETEL, CITEL, BR, US

SUBJECT: CITEL MEETINGS, RIO DE JANEIRO, 13 TO 17 DECEMBER 1976.

REF: STATE 294242

FOR MR. ROMULO VILLAR FURTADO, CHAIRMAN, COM/CITEL.

1. WE HAVE EXAMINED THE PROPOSED COM/CITEL AGENDA AND FIND IT ACCEPTABLE. IN CONDUCTING OUR WORK WE WOULD SUGGEST KEEPING IN MIND TWO BROAD OBJECTIVES:

A. THAT THE PRESENT CITEL BUDGET LEVEL OF 100,000 DOLLARS PLUS OTHER FUNDS DESCRIBED IN OUR TELEX OF 21 OCTOBER BE REGARDED AS A BUDGETARY MINIMUM. IF CITEL IS TO BE REVITALIZED, IT IS NECESSARY THAT IT RECEIVE AT LEAST THIS LEVEL OF SUPPORT IN THE FUTURE.

B. TO ACHIEVE THE REQUIRED OAS BUDGETARY SUPPORT IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT CITEL HAVE A WORK PROGRAM WHOSE ELEMENTS ARE BOTH NEEDED AND ACHIEVABLE. ONLY IF THE WORK PROGRAM IS SHARPLY DEFINED AND WELL-DEFENDED CAN WE HAVE REASONABLE
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PAGE 02 STATE 299741

ASSURANCE THAT CITEL CAN SUCCESSFULLY COMPETE WITH OTHER

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

CONTENDERS FOR OAS BUDGETARY SUPPORT.

2. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE OAS GENERAL SECRETARIAT IS SCHEDULED TO COMPLETE BY JUNE OF NEXT YEAR PREPARATION OF BUDGETARY PROPOSALS FOR THE BIENNIUM 1 JAN 1978 - 31 DEC 1979. WE BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE COM/CITEL MEETING PROVIDE GUIDANCE FOR THE BUDGET PREPARATION, IN THE FORM OF A TIGHTLY-DRAWN WORK PROGRAM AS OUTLINED ABOVE.

3. IT SEEMS TO US THAT IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE TO CARRY OUT ALL OF THE TASKS SET FORTH IN THE SEVERAL CITEL RESOLUTIONS WE WILL BE EXAMINING. COM/CITEL PROBABLY WILL FIND IT NECESSARY TO SET PRIORITIES, AND WE FEAR NOT ALL CITEL MEMBER STATES WILL BE ENTIRELY SATISFIED WITH THE DECISIONS.

4. I WISH TO ASSURE YOU THAT THE UNITED STATES IS ANXIOUS TO WORK WITH OTHERS TO REACH A CONSENSUS ON PRIORITIES. WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING CLOSELY WITH YOU IN RIO DE JANEIRO.

WITH MY PERSONAL REGARDS, JOHN J. O'NEILL, JR., DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS POLICY, DEPARTMENT OF STATE. ROBINSON

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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EO Systematic Review
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